milk products, or from contact with infected animals. From 5 to 97 cases were treated annually in government institutions in the 6 years 1944-49. In the examination of 2,548 blood serum specimens sent to the Wassermann laboratory in Baghdad in 1938,[4] positive agglutination with Brucella antigens was obtained in 6 per cent. *Br. melitensis* was isolated from 5 of the 13 samples from which bacteriologic cultures were made.

Diseases Spread Chiefly Through the Respiratory Tract

Tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is among the most serious diseases in Iraq. In 1944-49, from 3,400 to 6,800 cases of pulmonary and from 1,400 to 3,100 of nonpulmonary tuberculosis were recorded annually. Such figures are of little value in assessing the problem, however, due to inadequate reporting and the shortage of diagnostic and treatment facilities. Local authorities estimate that the prevalence of latent or active infections approximates at least 25 to 30 per cent in many villages in the vicinity of Kirkuk and Basra, and undoubtedly in other areas. Widespread undernutrition and low standards of living, associated with overcrowding and ignorance of the basic principles of hygiene, are factors contributing to the spread of the disease. The death rates are known to be high, but little precise information is available. It is believed that a considerable number of tuberculosis deaths are erroneously attributed to pneumonia and other respiratory infections. Moreover, the inhabitants are often reluctant to admit the presence of tuberculosis in the family due to the stigma customarily attached to the disease. In the decade 1941-50, an average of 760 cases were treated in government hospitals each year, with a fatality rate of about 25 per cent. The maximum number of cases occurred in the group from 16 to 30 years of age.

All types of tuberculosis are encountered. Involvement of the bones or the glands accounts for a large proportion of the non-